

~~Top Secret~~

YUGOSLAVIA: Impasse Over President Continuing

The collective Presidency today will again consider Croatian Stjepan Mesic for federal President. The Serbian bloc in the Federal Assembly yesterday pushed through the nominations of three new members to the Presidency—from Montenegro and the autonomous provinces of Kosovo and Voivodina—after the Slovene and Croatian delegations walked out. [REDACTED] if the Presidency fails again to approve Mesic's succession, Prime Minister Markovic may assert that his cabinet is the only federal institution that continues to function, appealing to the country and the military for support. The Serbian bloc yesterday demanded that a vote of no-confidence in Markovic be taken next Thursday. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Croatia and Slovenia probably will strongly protest Serbia's action in the Assembly as unconstitutional but may attend today's Presidency session in the hope of securing Mesic's election. Serbia and its allies, despite possibly being mollified by getting their nominees added to the Presidency, still may not change their votes and approve the Mesic candidacy. While Markovic is viewed as ineffectual by most of the country, the Army probably would back him as an ally in an effort to hold the Yugoslav state together. [REDACTED]

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